

SITE DESCRIPTION: FORSYTH COUNTY INVENTORY REPORT, 1998

SITE #14 NAME: North Walkertown Forests

SIZE: About 150 acres

SITE SIGNIFICANCE: County

QUADRANGLE: Walkertown, NC

LOCATION: Located in the southern part of the Old Field Creek watershed in north-central Forsyth County. The site is located within about 1 air mile north-northwest of Walkertown, NC on the north side of NC 66 and west of US 311.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The site occurs along Old Field Creek, south of a large power line right-of-way: the southern end of the site appears to contain the most mature forests. The more mature forest areas are situated within mature, but younger, forests which buffer them. Collectively, they constitute a large, unfragmented block of forested habitat which is uncommon in north-central Forsyth County. If left unfragmented, the site would continue to provide conditions required by forest interior species.

Most prevalent in the site is Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest dominated by a canopy of tulip tree, red maple, and red oak, with occasional cucumbertree. Flowering dogwood, mockernut hickory, and occasional black cherry, sourwood, American beech, American holly and saplings of the canopy species compose the understory. Shrubs such as hazelnut (*Corylus* sp.) and hillside blueberry (*Vaccinium pallidum*) occur in patches, and mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), and strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*) are also present. Herbs such as Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*), false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), pipsissewa (*Chimaphila maculata*), tick trefoil (*Desmodium* sp.), and other typical herbs form a moderately dense herb layer. One oak-dominated area is of markedly better quality, with numerous trees in the 12-18 inch diameter range, and practically no tulip tree.

Piedmont Monadnock Forest, with fairly large canopy tree diameters in some parts, is also present in a couple of middle-upper slopes on the east side of Old Field Creek. It is dominated by chestnut oak, with some pignut hickory, red maple, black gum, and sourwood. Trees average perhaps 14 inches in diameter, with scattered oaks to 16-18 inches. A fairly sparse understory contains seedlings and saplings of the canopy species, as well as sassafras and patches of shrubs such as hillside blueberry, deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and the vine common greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*). Herbs are sparse, including galax (*Galax urceolata*), pipsissewa, and a few other typical species.

As is common for alluvial forest communities, many areas along Old Field Creek contain weedy, open clearings or forests of only fair quality. However, fair quality examples of